

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 thru 13 and 15, and add claim 16, as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting at least one function-
2 extending module, which is detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module
3 capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated between said at least
4 one function-extending module and the base module, the apparatus comprising:

5 a detecting unit for detecting the installation of said at least one function-
6 extending module in the module rack and for generating a detection signal;

7 a switching unit for connecting the base module to said at least one function-
8 extending module; and

9 a control unit for controlling the switching unit so that said at least one function-
10 extending module is connected to the base module in a daisy-chain fashion according to
11 the detection signal from the detecting unit;

12 wherein the base module has a port and each function-extending module has first
13 and second ports;

14 wherein the switching unit comprises a first switching part for selectively
15 connecting the port of the base module to the first port of one function-extending module,
16 and a second switching part for selectively connecting the second port of said one
17 function-extending module to the first port of any other function-extending module;

18 wherein the second switching part comprises switching n devices, each switching
19 device corresponding to a given function-extending module, said each switching device
20 comprising a common port and n-1 selection ports, one selection port for each of n-1
21 other switching devices; and

22 wherein the common port of said each switching device is connected to the second
23 port of said given function-extending module, and said n-1 selection ports of said each
24 switching device are connected to the first port of said n-1 other switching devices,
25 respectively.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the port of the base
2 module comprises an IEEE 1394 port and said first and second ports of said at least one
3 each function-extending module ~~comprises first and second~~ are IEEE 1394 ports; and

4 ~~wherein the switching unit comprises:~~

5 ~~a first switching part for selectively connecting the IEEE 1394 port included in the~~
6 ~~base module to one of the first IEEE 1394 ports of said at least one function-extending~~
7 ~~module; and~~

8 ~~a second switching part for selectively connecting one of the second IEEE 1394~~
9 ~~ports of said at least one function-extending module to one of the IEEE 1394 ports of any~~
10 ~~other said at least one function-extending module.~~

1 3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the detecting

unit sends the detection signal to the control unit, the detection signal indicating whether a corresponding function-extending module is inserted into the module rack, said control unit generating a control signal; and

wherein the first switching part selectively connects ~~[[a]] the port provided in of~~ the base module to ~~one of the first IEEE-1394 ports~~ port of said ~~at least one function-~~ extending module in response to ~~[[a]] the~~ control signal generated by the control unit.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[4]] 1~~, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said each switching device connects one of the selection ports to ~~[[the]]~~ its common port in response to another control signal generated by the control unit.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one function-extending module comprises a plurality of function-extending modules, and wherein said switching unit establishes interconnections between respective function-extending modules.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting ~~at least one~~ a plurality of function-extending ~~module~~ modules, which ~~[[is]]~~ are detachably inserted into ~~[[the]]~~ a module rack, to a base module capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be

communicated, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a switching unit having a first port connected to the base module, a plurality of common ports, one for each function-extending module, and a plurality of additional ports;

(b) connecting each common port of the switching unit to a first port of a respective one of said function-extending modules;

(c) connecting each additional port of the switching unit to a second port of a corresponding one of said function-extending modules;

[[a)] (d) detecting whether said ~~at least one~~ function-extending ~~module is~~ modules are inserted into the module rack; and

[[b)] (e) connecting the detected said ~~at least one~~ function-extending ~~module in a daisy-chain fashion with regard~~ modules to the base module.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [[b)] (e) comprises:

[[b1)] (e1) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

[[b12)] (e12) connecting the base module to said at least one function-extending module when the previously installed function-extending module is not present.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [[b)] (e)

comprises:

[[b21]] (e21) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

[[b22]] (e22) connecting the previously installed function-extending module to a newly installed function-extending module and detachably connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base module when only one previously installed function-extending module is present.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [(b)] (e) comprises:

[[b31]] (e31) checking for presence of previously installed function-extending modules; and

[[b32]] (e32) connecting a newly installed function-extending module to a function-extending module which constitutes a last node of a daisy chain of the previously installed function-extending modules when a number of the previously installed function-extending modules is at least two, and connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base module.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [(b)] (e) further comprises connecting said detected at least one function-extending module to an installed function-extending module in the daisy-chain fashion.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A recording medium having program codes that connect
2 a function-extending module, which is detachably inserted into the module rack, to a base
3 module capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated, the medium
4 comprising:

5 a first program code for detecting whether the function-extending module is
6 inserted into the module rack; and

7 a second program code for connecting the function-extending module to a
8 previously installed function-extending module ~~in a daisy-chain fashion with regard to~~
9 ~~the base module~~ when the function-extending module is detected as being inserted into
10 the module rack;

11 wherein the second program code comprises:

12 a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed
13 function-extending module; and

14 a second program code portion for connecting the previously installed function-
15 extending module to a newly installed function-extending module when there is only one
16 previously installed function-extending module, and connecting the newly installed
17 function-extending module to the base module

1 13. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 12, wherein the second
2 program code further comprises:

3 ~~a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed~~
4 ~~function-extending module; and~~

5 a ~~second~~ third program code portion for connecting the base module to a newly
6 installed function-extending module when the previously installed function-extending
7 module is not present.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 12, wherein the second
2 program code further comprises:

3 ~~a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed~~
4 ~~function-extending module; and~~

5 a ~~second~~ third program code portion for connecting a newly installed function-
6 extending module to a function-extending module that constitutes a last node of a daisy
7 chain of the previously installed function-extending module when a number of previously
8 installed function extending modules is two, and for detachably connecting the newly
9 installed function-extending module to the base module.

1 16. (New) A method for connecting a plurality of function-extending modules,
2 which are detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module capable of
3 reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated, the method comprising the steps

4 of:

5 (a) detecting whether said function-extending modules are inserted into the
6 module rack; and

7 (b) connecting the detected said function-extending modules to the base module;

8 wherein step (b) comprises:

9 (b21) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module;

10 and

11 (b22) connecting the previously installed function-extending module to a newly
12 installed function-extending module and connecting the newly installed function-
13 extending module to the base module when only one previously installed function-
14 extending module is present.